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CLAIMS

We claim:

1. Method for controlling the layout of collaboration space user interface components, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 rendering individually addressable and placing on a page each said user interface component; and
 - 5 rendering components on said page equivalent to collaboration space tags for importation into said collaboration space for use in instantiating said user interface.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, said page being an HTML page and
2 said collaboration space being a place.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, said place being a file
2 directory.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

dragging and dropping said page from a user desktop to an output control for uploading to a collaboration space server.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 organizing said collaboration space according to an object
3 model selectively including place, room, folder, page,
4 member, form, field, placetype, roomtype, skin, and placebot
5 objects.

1 6. The method of claim 1, said user interface components
2 including logo, table of contents, action bar, tool bar, and
3 page content.

1 7. The method of claim 1, said tags further providing
2 links to other collaboration space resources.

1 8. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

2 integrating said collaboration space with an existing
3 web site by including in said page links to network
4 resources.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2 uploading said pages to a server for caching in a cache
3 of skin groups; and

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2 presenting to said user users a gallery of themes from
3 which to choose and optionally tweek a visual site
4 design for rendering said collaboration space to said
5 user.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 tweaking a theme by selecting basic property changes

4 through said user interface to specific classes of said
5 style sheet; and

6 operating a collaboration space server to feed said
7 changes to said style sheet.

1 12. A method for controlling the style and layout of a
2 collaboration space user interface, comprising the steps of:

3 specifying component positioning in said user interface
4 in a set of hypertext markup language pages; and

5 specifying font, size and color style in a common style
6 sheet page.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 rendering each said component on said hypertext markup
4 language pages individually addressable.

1 14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps

2 of:

3 rendering in a skin group said hypertext markup
4 language and style sheet pages responsive to
5 collaboration space tags; and
6 responsive to a user request, importing said skin group
7 into a place for instantiating said user interface.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of
2 providing links from said skin group to other collaboration
3 space and system resources.

1 16. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:
2 responsive to said skin group, rendering said
3 collaboration space to said user through said user
4 interface.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 presenting to said user users a gallery of skin groups
4 from which to choose a visual site design for
5 expressing the identity and suiting the work to be done
6 by a project or team.

1 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of

2 presenting to said user users a gallery of skin groups
3 from which to choose a visual site design for
4 rebranding a collaboration space for inhouse
5 applications.

1 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of

2 presenting said collaboration space to said user
3 through a skin group tailored to the identity of said
4 user.

1 20. The method of claim 19, said skin group structuring
2 said interface for communication with a physically
3 challenged user.

1 21. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 developing a theme for applying a common look and feel
4 to multiple layouts by applying code from one layout to
5 all layouts for which a file has not been explicitly
6 supplied.

1 22. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 including in said gallery of themes a default style
4 sheet including a plurality of selectors;

5 for specific selectors in a user style sheet tweaked by
6 said user, changing said specific selectors; and

7 for other selectors in said user style sheet not
8 tweaked by said user, using a corresponding selector
9 from said default style sheet in said user style sheet.

1 23. System for controlling the style and layout of a
2 collaboration space user interface, comprising:

3 at least one hypertext markup language page and at
4 least one common style sheet page;
5
6 said hypertext markup language page for specifying
7 components positioning within said user interface; and
8 said common style sheet page specifying font, size and
9 color style for said components.

1 24. The system of claim 23, further comprising:
2 an output control for receiving said pages from a
3 local storage for uploading to a collaboration space
4 server.

1 25. The system of claim 24, further comprising:
2 a drag and drop facility for dragging and dropping said
3 pages from a desktop to said output control.

1 26. The system of claim 24, said collaboration space server
2 converting said hypertext markup language pages and style

3 sheet to a skin group by applying collaboration space tags
4 to said hypertext markup languages pages.

1 27. The system of claim 23, said collaboration space being
2 structured according to an object model selectively
3 including place, room, folder, page, member, form, field,
4 placetype, roomtype, skin, and placebot objects.

1 28. The system of claim 23, said components including logo,
2 table of contents, actions, tools, and page content.

1 29. The system of claim 26, said skin group comprising a
2 page read mode, page edit mode, a folder list and response,
3 a folder headline, and a folder slide show pages and a style
4 sheet page for defining said look and feel of said user
5 interface and for providing links to other collaboration
6 space resources.

1 30. The system of claim 27, further comprising:

2 a main room having a first theme for defining its look

3 and feel;

4 a subroom linked to said main room;

5 said subroom inheriting said first theme unless a
6 custom theme has been defined for said subroom.

1 31. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for controlling the layout
4 of collaboration space user interface components, said
5 method steps comprising:

6 rendering individually addressable and placing on a
7 page each said user interface component; and

8 rendering components on said page equivalent to
9 collaboration space tags for importation into said
10 collaboration space for use in instantiating said user
11 interface.

1 32. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a

3 machine to perform method steps for controlling the style
4 and layout of a collaboration space user interface, said
5 method steps comprising:

6 specifying component positioning in said user interface
7 in a set of hypertext markup language pages; and

8 specifying font, size and color style in a common style
9 sheet page.

1 33. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for rendering individually addressable and placing on a page
3 each said user interface component; and rendering components
4 on said page equivalent to collaboration space tags for
5 importation into said collaboration space for use in
6 instantiating said user interface.

1 34. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for controlling the style and layout of a collaboration
3 space user interface by specifying component positioning in
4 said user interface in a set of hypertext markup language
5 pages; and specifying font, size and color style in a common
style sheet page.